(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to organise an inaugural function on 11th May, 2007 at Red Fort in commemoration of First War of Independence, 1857.

Rain water harvesting in Uttarakhand

†*319. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is providing monetary assistance to the State of Uttarakhand for promoting schemes related to rain water harvesting/ collection;

(b) if so, the details of the monetary assistance provided to the State during the last two years to increase water level and amount being provided to the State in the current financial year under this head;

(c) whether he is aware that the State has vast potential with regard to fain water harvesting/collection; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps being taken to exploit the said potential?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DiN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources has provided Grant-in-aid to Non-Government Organisation (NGOs)/Community Based Organisations (CBOs) for construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures and two toilets each in 41 Government Girls Schools in Uttarakhand during 2005-2007. Details of total number of structures to be constructed and monetary assistance provided to CBOs/NGOs are given in Statement (See below).

(c) The State of Uttarakhand has significant potential of rain water harvesting for storage and recharge of ground water. As per reports,-about 85% area of the State is covered by mountainous topography and average annual rainfall is 1523 mm. The Central Ground Water Board

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has prepared a conceptual report titled "Master plan for artificial recharge to ground water in India". As per the master plan, in Uttarakhand, 500 schemes of spring development are feasible through construction of 3 check dams for each spring. In addition to these, 500 check dams are feasible in low hill ranges and sub-surface dykes at 500 places are feasible to check the sub-surface ground water flow.

(d) 'Water' being a State subject, necessary action to exploit the available potential for rain water harvesting/collection is to be taken by the respective State Governments. CGWB had implemented demonstrative projects under the Central Sector Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water' during the IX Plan, under which four check dams were constructed in Dehradun District. Besides, the CGWB provides technical guidance on rain water harvesting to various agencies, including State Government agencies, education institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals. In Uttarakhand technical guidance was rendered by CGWB to the NGOs for construction of 16 rain water harvesting tanks in Champawat District, 4 in Almora District and 3 in Pithoragarh district.

Statement

Year-wise monetary assistance provided to the [Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Global Rain Water Harvesting Collective (GRHC) in the State of Uttarakhand]

Sl. No	Name of the CBO/NGO	Total number of structures to be constructed			Year (Rs. in lacs)	2004-05	Year 2005-06 (Rs. in lacs)	Year (Rs. in lacs)	2006-07
		1st Phase	IInd Phase	Total					
1.	To Grassroot, Almorah To GRHC	14	10	24	—	2.76 0.24	7.776 0.67631	—	6.90 0.60
2.	To SWRC, Champawat To GRHC	4	10	14	—	2.76 0.24	7.82 0.68	—	—
3.	To Avani, Pithoragarh To GRHC	3	—	03	— —		— —	—	2.07 0.18
	TOTAL:	21	20	41		6.00	16.95231		9.75